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## News

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appears on page 4. A paper entitled "Mathematicians in Colonial Canada: Bougainville and Masères," was read by Bill Higginson of Queen's to the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics at Laval in June. No abstract is presently available. C.S.H.P.S. papers were:

R.V.V. Nicholls, "The Production of Potash in Canada during the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries," described the forms and uses of potash, its provenance in Canada, an outline of the potash industry and trade figures for the 19th century.

W. James and A. Dick, (McMaster), "T.C. Keefer, C.E., at Hamilton Water Works, C.W.: Events Preceding his Appointment as Chief Engineer," discussed the background to the discussion for creating a waterworks for Hamilton, especially the role of the cholera epidemic. The design competition was also described.

L. Murphy, (York), "Thomas C. Keefer's Inaugural Lecture as a Portent of Professionalism in Canadian Engineering," introduced portions of Keefer's unpublished inaugural lecture as professor of civil engineering at McGill and highlighted Keefer's views on engineering as a profession.

R. A. Jarrell, (York), "Towards an Historiography of Canadian Science," reviewed the literature and problems in the history of Canadian science and set out a scheme for interpreting that history with the concept of scientism and the use of a chronological structure.

#### NEWS

#### The NRC Oral History Project

The National Reserach Council's "oral history" collection is a general archive on the NRC's early development, including manuscripts and photographs as well as tape-recordings. It grew out of the conviction that important forces in the NRC's history (especially individual personalities and the influence of the political or social climate) had gone unrecorded in scientific literature or official files, thus limiting the historian's resources.

An initial trial, specializing in biology 1920-1940 (in support of a newly-commissioned history) seemed to confirm this, so the work continued.

A second phase, in physics 1929-1952 (also for a new book) has nearly been concluded and the terms of reference have been broadened to include other aspects of the NRC's activities, particularly prior to 1940.

About 100 interviews have been completed, with Council members and non-professional staff as well as National Research Laboratory researchers. Detailed written summaries of each tape-recorded interview are compiled, to simplify their use by future historians. In addition, a variety of manuscripts, diaries, historical narratives, photographs, etc. is being collected.

The general intention of the NRC is to make its collection available to scholars at large, in a form yet to be decided. Access by individual researchers can be secured by application to Dr. A.W. Tickner, Senior Archival Officer, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa K1A 0R6.

-- D. Phillipson  
-- A. W. Tickner

#### ARCHIVES

A meeting was held at the Université Laval on 4 June by members of C.S.H.P.S. to discuss the problems of locating scientific and technical archives. The Institute for History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto has suggested the formation of a union catalogue of materials. This project, under the direction of Mr. David Lukens of the Institute, is endeavouring to locate new collections. For further information, one should contact Mr. Lukens. A partial listing of the scientific, technical, and medical history holdings of the McGill University Archives was provided for us by R. Michel, Accessions Archivist.

#### SOME HOLDINGS IN SCIENCE, MEDICINE, AND TECHNOLOGY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

This is intended as a brief indication of some archival holdings which may be of interest to historians of science, medicine and technology. A more detailed summary is planned.

#### GEOLOGY

1. Many reprints and records of the Geology Department, McGill University.
2. Sir William Dawson, Principal of McGill University, 1855-93 and geologist: notebooks, sketches, correspondence, scrapbooks, publications.